



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOUR-YEAR FUGITIVE RECEIVES MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE  
FOR SMUGGLING AND TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in San Antonio this morning 36-year-old Maria Magdalena Parra-Luna, a citizen of Mexico and a fugitive from U.S. law enforcement for over four years, was sentenced to ten years in federal prison—the statutory maximum—for conspiring to transport hundreds of illegal aliens. In all, nine defendants including her husband, Guillermo Parra-Luna, have been sentenced to federal prison for their roles in the illegal alien smuggling operation.

The charges arose from the discovery of 32 undocumented aliens in a mobile home in Campbellton, Texas, on August 20, 2002. The illegal aliens, who were from Honduras and Mexico, crossed into the United States near Piedras Negras, Mexico, and were guided by “coyotes” on foot through Maverick and Zavala Counties to a pick-up point west of La Pryor, Texas. One of the Honduran immigrants, Victor Manuel Romero-Lopez, became ill during the journey. He was left behind in the brush by the smugglers and died as a result of heat stroke. The smugglers transported the surviving illegal aliens to the Parra-Luna property in Campbellton. Members of the organization detained the illegal aliens at that location until friends and family members sent money by wire transfer to secure their release. Wire transfer records indicate that between December 1, 1999, and July 19, 2002, Guillermo Parra-Luna and his wife Maria Parra-Luna signed cash receipts for over \$700,000; funds representing smuggling fees.

On July 11, 2006, Maria Parra-Luna pled guilty to the conspiracy charge. She was a fugitive from 2002 until May 5, 2006, when she was arrested in Kennedy, Texas.

In addition to the prison sentences, the Parra's property in Campbellton, valued at approximately \$50,000, was forfeited to the government.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Atascosa Sheriff's Department, Zavala County Sheriff's Department and the United States and Border Patrol. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Judith Patton.

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